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Council of Chairs Meeting, September 22, 2011

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Council of Chairs Minutes
September 22, 8 a.m. Ed Grose Room

ACTIONS NEEDED:

1. Any agenda items for the next meeting.
2. Opinions regarding Mary Beth Reynolds' Mapworks questions (see below)

Present: Jeff Archambault, Mary Beth Beller, Mike Castellani, Byron Clercx, Allison Goodman, Jane Hill, Dan Holbrook, Penny Kroll, Marty Laubach, Margie McInerney, Karen McNealy, Jeff Pappas, Jennifer Perry, Bill Pierson, Elmer Price, Harlan Smith, George Watson, Kelli Williams

Guests: Mary Beth Reynolds, Frances Hensley, Gayle Ormiston, Rudy Pauley

Mike Castellani called the meeting to order.

He announced the next meeting would be in 2-3 weeks at 3:30 p.m. A meeting confirmation notice will be sent. Governing rules of the Council will be discussed at that time. All other agenda items should be sent to Mike.

Mary Beth Reynolds discussed Mapworks. She began by briefly describing the program and then spoke about a new feature added to it this year: the ability for any professor who teaches first-year students to send an academic update (how many absences, current grade, high/low risk of failing, additional comments). We are currently only offering this information at mid-term. Mary Beth asked the Council for input on a recommendation for the timeline for inputting this information and who should see this information. Discussion followed.

It was mentioned that this could work for academic updates to HELP Center, Athletics, etc... Currently, this information is only going to the Student Resource Center. If Chairs want access to this information, they should contact Mary Beth.

The efficacy of Mapworks is being examined. Is it useful?

The opinion that inefficiencies are created with all the options we have now to get information (MYMU, MUBERT, Mapworks, Banner) was offered. Can we get the information we need from a central location? We are not using technologies that have been used for years at other institutions.

Would it be possible to integrate Mapworks into FYS?

Mary Beth is willing to come and train departments in using Mapworks for intervention and/or advising purposes.

The lack of consistent attendance taking across campus is an issue. We need to get a greater faculty buy-in across campus regarding retention. Gayle mentioned that Marshall has an opposite problem of most schools. Our first to second year retention is low, whereas the second to third, third to fourth and graduation rates are higher than other institutions.

A question was raised: are first-year student schedules correlated to ACT scores?

Mary Beth mentioned that Mapworks is available through the Marshall homepage. She will send directions to the Chair's list.

Gayle Ormiston mentioned the Degree Works software. Training is projected to begin in December.

Four Task Forces on retention were formed after the Academic Affairs retreat:

1. Mapworks
2. Advising Timeline
3. Elements of Advisor Training
4. Master Syllabus

Future Campus Conversations will focus on the Lumina Project and accreditation. He outlined major categories in Lumina handout. We will be reporting back to the Lumina Foundation how these categories work for Marshall.

He asked: What is the meaning of an undergraduate degree from Marshall and how do we value it?

We will begin Lumina in January 2012 and send an initial report in December 2013. This accrediting process is based on evidence of learning outcomes. We already have many of these in place. Chairs will need to assist from the department level. We will work from the Capstone on down to show how we are meeting learning outcomes. Master Syllabi will include program and course outcomes, so students can see the relationship between the two.

A question was raised about the inclusion of students during the Campus Conversation. SGA has been invited and Steve Hensley is working to get students involved.

A concern was raised about the composition of the Master Syllabus Committee (only 1 full-time faculty). It has the appearance that it is too administrative in scope and seems to indicate little intent for faculty involvement. Gayle mentioned that there is no limitations on what the committee can do or who can assist.

A question was raised with what would happen to MUBERT if Brian Morgan left Marshall? This is a concern. Brian has the copyright to MUBERT and MUBRITE, the student version. The university is talking with Brian and other people about it and trying to come up with a solution.

It was mentioned that there are other models available similar to MUBERT on the market and discussion about possible other models ensued.

A question was raised about whether or not there would be a service/civic learning module in the Lumina Project. Would we have these types of courses designated like we do with CORE I and II, multicultural, and international courses? Gayle mentioned this was the weakest area we have, and it will be discussed. It may naturally evolve as a result of discussion and/or it may naturally come out as we do our study.

Frances amended the Associate Dean's meeting minutes to read that the enrollment increase is not in Freshman, but with Sophomore, Junior and Senior enrollments (up 7.2.%) Freshman enrollment is up 2.2%. Something has changed for this higher retention rate to occur and the university is studying this number. It was noted that retention awareness is up across campus and departments can play a large role in this.

Gayle mentioned that 78.5% of Marshall students are on financial aid – \$96 million dollars was distributed. There is a disturbing trend of students not being able to begin repayments after the 6 month grace period.

A question was raised as to how we can sustain this retention. Gayle mentioned the university is working on it. We could raise admission guidelines (currently 19 ACT and 2.0 gpa) to 21 ACT and 2.5 gpa, but we would lose enrollment. Currently, 10% of our incoming class are conditional admits. If we raise enrollment standards, how do we make up these numbers? One option would be to enroll more International students. They would enter a 1 year pre-matriculation program, and then matriculate into a four year program. There would be no discounted tuition or scholarships with this group, but would we be denying West Virginia residents access to the university?

It was also mentioned that non-traditional students have issues that traditional students don't have to deal with. How do we give them the necessary slack, but keep it fair for all involved?

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Pappas
Vice Chair/Recorder